

# Onondaga County Justice Center

## Inmate Letterhead

Rec'd in CRB  
Office 072716  
Case #16-061

City of Syracuse, Citizen Review Board

Citizen Complaint Report

### Section 1: Personal Information

Tony Jennings DOB: 7/18/82 Sex: Male  
Race: AA

167 Anderson Ave Syracuse New York 13205  
315-469-2044, Currently Housed At Onondaga County  
Justice Center.

### Section 2: Description of The Incident

\* January 5, 2016 Approximately 6:43 pm  
Pioneer Homes 100 Block of Radisson Court.

On January 5, 2016 At Approximately 6:43 pm  
2 officers of the Syracuse Police Department  
Driving A Marked Police Vehicle in "plain clothing"  
pulled into Radisson Court where I the Defendant  
was inside of my car, parked in between two  
other parked vehicles. The officers pulled their  
patrol vehicle directly behind the rear end of  
my vehicle blocking my car from reversing out of  
the parking space. Officers Darren Jeffinger  
and Jeremy Decker got out of their police vehicle  
and immediately they approached the passenger of  
my car. "Willie Jones" was removing mechanical  
equipment from the front and back seat of  
my car when approached by both officers.

Immediately Willie Jones was grabbed by both  
officers and searched for no apparent or  
justifiable reason at all. I watched this  
altercation from the driver seat of my car  
through the open passenger door and window  
for a minute or two, then decided to exit  
my vehicle, I opened my driver side door and  
immediately officer Jeremy Decker ran around  
from the passenger side and jumped into the doorway

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of my car flashing his light all around the interior of my car and in my face. Officer Decker started asking questions right away about drugs and guns inside of my car and on my person. I asked Officer Decker what was this all about and why did he block my car in preventing me from leaving which he gave me no answer. Officer Decker responded to me by repeating the persistent questions relating to drugs and guns and why were me and my friends sitting in the car. I asked him again why did he block my vehicle in, which he replied, he observed "furtive movements" inside of my car and that he believed something was to be going on. Officer Decker asked me for identification which I produced a valid drivers licence and proper registration and insurance. "It has been written statements from Officer Decker and testimony sworn to from Officer Decker and Ettinger to an Grand Jury in regards to this case and sworn testimony under oath at my suppression hearing May 17 and May 19, 2016 that I was arrested and pulled from my car because of a digital scale black in color observed in plain view by both officers ~~and~~ Decker and Ettinger covered in cocaine." There has never been any criminal charges lodged against me for criminal possession of drug paraphernalia in the second degree. Neither has there been any evidence of a digital scale covered in cocaine produced for the courts inspection at the suppression hearing, documentation of lab reports conducted upon said scale or item # numbers indicating that it even exists. Officer Decker used the authority of his badge and intimidation to gain entry into my car and to conduct his violation of my person. Once out of my car Officer Decker ordered me to place my hands on the roof of my car then began searching inside of my pockets. Starting with my coat he searched inside of my pockets, then stuck his hand into my right front pants pocket.

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I Asked officer Decker if I was under Arrest and Why was He Searching inside of my pockets. There was no Response From officer Decker until He Grabbed The Back of my pants and said "That He pulls up and see's Two guy's sitting in a car" Making "furtive Movements" There has to be something going on. Officer Decker continues his search of my person and (lifts) The back of my coat/tail and says to me "you seem kind of nervous" Then sticks Hand Down The (Inside) of my pants in The Rear. I Tense up and Tell officer Decker That he is way out of line and Violating my Rights with this Conduct And Ask For What to stop. I Turn Around To Get officer Decker To Remove his hand from inside of pants, But Immediately He Slams me To The Ground in The parking lot Causing me To Bang my head on Ice Trucks on The Ground. At This Time officer Etlinger Runs From The opposite side of my Car To Where me and officer Decker are on The Ground, me pinned underneath officer Decker with my hands Behind my back, That's when officer Etlinger Kneels Down beside me on my Right side and punched me in The Face with closed fist. once Cuffed I was Brought To my feet By Both officers Then continued To Be Searched. officer Decker found Contraband Inside my front left pants pocket.

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Racial profiling Definitely played A Role here  
 Due To The Fact These officers stop The only  
 Two people in A Neighborhood predominantly  
 African American where there is activity of violence  
 And Drugs. There was no Report of Any crimes that  
 had been committed, but for no Reason felt the  
 need To subject Two Black people sitting in a car  
 minding their own business To harassment and  
 assault and an illegal search. once officer Decker  
 stated that he observed "furtive movements"  
 he meant Two Black occupants sitting in a car  
 in a Neighborhood equals up to no good.

I Am currently being held at The Onondaga County  
 Justice Center on charges Criminal Possession of a  
 Controlled Substance in The 3rd Degree, 4th Degree,  
 And 7th Degree, And Resisting Arrest.  
 Officer Jeremy Decker gave written testimony  
 And testified under oath To The Grand Jury and  
 At The suppression hearing that he weighed said  
 contraband using a Volumetric Department  
 scale To determine the actual aggregate weight  
 which he testified to in the amount of an  
 aggregate weight of 4 grams. Laboratory specialist  
Forensic Chemist Jennifer S. Wilson Affirmed  
 under penalty of perjury An aggregate weight  
 of 2.576 grams far less than what officer  
 Decker testified too which isn't criminal possession  
 of An Controlled substance in The 4th Degree or  
 officer Decker gave sworn testimony and Affidavits  
 To.

During The Incident I was Injured But Did not Receive  
 Hospital Treatment Because I was scared And  
 Intimidated To Ask Because of The presence of so  
 many officers. officer Etlinger testified that he did  
 assault me by way of punching me in The face with a  
 closed fist under oath During my suppression hearing.

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A police officer is held in high regards to uphold the law and to protect and serve. A police officer should never disregard the law and take matters above and beyond the scope of legal basis and his authority as a police officer. A police officer's badge should never be used as a means of power to violate the constitutional rights of citizens, or as a means of power to oppress its citizens. A police officer who lies in a police report should be charged with perjury. Currently PBA president JEFF PIEDMONT official spokesperson for the Syracuse Police Department has spoken out to members of the Citizens Review Board, a committee of members who investigate complaints of misconduct and aggressive force used by officers of the Syracuse Police Department. When asked PBA president JEFF PIEDMONT stated "They don't like the fact that we punch people in the face!" "They don't like the fact that we punch people in the head!" "Some of our officers punch harder than others PIEDMONT stated!" "If some of our bigger ones punch, they're going to have damage, and the Citizens Review Board just doesn't like the fact that we punch people!"

Under no circumstances should any officer of the law be allowed to assault citizens. Officers Jeremy Decker and Darren Ettinger should be held accountable for their conduct. Given the fact that there were no weapons present or found during the search, and the officer never felt that his life was in danger or threatened of physical harm or injury. There was no cause for officer Darren Ettinger to assault me by way of punching me in the face. There hasn't been any explanation or reasonable justification given or provided in any of the officers sworn testimony or written reports from the arrest on January 5, 2016.

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The Acts of These Two Officers False Reports  
Misconduct and Aggressive Force should Be Considered  
Detrimental To Any Citizen of Onondaga County  
Who Crosses The Path of These Two Officers  
Reasonable Suspicious.

I Have Read This Statement ✓

X Tony [Signature]

False Statements Made Herein are punishable  
As A Class A Misdemeanor pursuant To Section  
210.45 of The Penal Law of The State of New York.

X Tony [Signature]

TERESA DEMKO  
Commissioner of Deeds  
City of Syracuse  
Commission Expires 12/31/16

[Signature]  
7/25/16

Citizens Review Board  
201 East Washington Street, Suite 705  
Syracuse NY 13202